

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service**  
**Coronado National Forest**  
**300 West Congress**  
**Tucson, Arizona 85701**  
*www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado*



**For Immediate Release**

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## **MEMORIAL DAY TIPS FOR A SAFE, FUN WEEKEND**

TUCSON, AZ (May 23, 2005)— For those folks planning to escape the desert heat over the Memorial Day weekend, there are many cool campgrounds and picnic sites on the Coronado National Forest. To enjoy your holiday, here are a few tips to consider:

- Keep a clean campsite so you don't attract wildlife. Store food in bear-proof food storage boxes or in vehicles away from sleeping areas. Wash and store cookware and dishes promptly after meals. Properly dispose of garbage.
- Don't feed wildlife, either purposefully or accidentally. Help keep wildlife WILD.
- Keep pets under control at all times; obey posted regulations.
- Leave loud music, shouting and other rude behavior at home. Generators should not be run late at night or in early morning.
- Bring your own drinking water (some, but not all, areas have potable water available).
- Picnicking and camping outside of developed recreation areas on the Forest is allowed unless otherwise posted. Obey fire restrictions (see below).
- Visitors traveling in remote areas of the Coronado National Forest in the vicinity of the International Border adjacent to the Republic of Mexico are advised to remain alert to their surroundings, as illegal smuggling activity is known to occur in those areas. If you witness such activity, contact the nearest law enforcement agency with a description of persons, vehicles, date/time and other pertinent information

**Campfires and smoking: Campfire and smoking restrictions in all areas of the Coronado National Forest are currently in effect. Prohibited are the following:**

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a developed recreation site, or improved site. The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices, providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specification for safety is allowed.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter and free of all flammable material.

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Violation of restrictions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000. for an individual and up to \$10,000. for an organization; or imprisonment for not more than six(6) months or both. Violators also may be held personally responsible for reimbursement of fire suppression costs.

**Think you can't go camping without a campfire? . . . Try camping without a forest.**

Fireworks are prohibited year-round.

All campgrounds and picnic areas in the Coronado National Forest will be open to visitors unless posted otherwise. If you have plans to hike, obey signs posted indicating closure of trail. Check with the particular district you are traveling to for current information. For current fire restrictions, call the toll free Fire Restriction Hot Line 1-877-864-6985, or check this website:<http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc>.

**Ranger District (with major recreation areas) contact information:**

- Santa Catalina Ranger District (Mt. Lemmon, Sabino Canyon): (520) 749-8700
- Nogales Ranger District (Santa Rita Mts., Madera Canyon): (520) 281-2296
- Sierra Vista Ranger District (Huachuca Mts., Miller Peak Wilderness): (520) 378-0311
- Safford Ranger District: (Mt. Graham): (928) 428-4150
- Douglas Ranger District (Chiricahua Mts., Dragoon Mts.): (520) 364-3468
- Coronado National Forest Headquarters: (520) 388-8300

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